FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 JANUARY 1987

Lebanon

Attempt on Sham'un — Camille Sham'un narrowly escaped an assassination attempt 7 January, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, adding that 6 people were killed and 35 were wounded when a car bomb exploded near a convoy carrying the former president.

SLA — Israel's *Ma'ariv* spoke of "demoralization" in the South Lebanese Army (SLA), noting that some 100 SLA men have been killed by Hizballah attacks in recent months and that 250 have deserted. During a tour of the Israeli security zone in Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem television that Syria is responsible for aiding and activating "terrorism" in Lebanon. In a related development, IDF radio noted that three SLA men were injured in a 6 January bomb attack in the south.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian warplanes inflicted heavy casualties and losses in two raids against Iraqi positions on the southern front, according to communiques cited by IRNA. The agency also reported that "hundreds" of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded by poisonous fumes when Iranian artillery fire caused an explosion at a munitions depot on the Shatt al-Arab 5 January. Regarding action in the Gulf, an Iraqi military spokesman denied an Iranian claim that artillery destroyed several helicopters on a pad at the Al-Bakr oil platform.

GCC and the ICO Summit

There are "no obstacles" preventing the convening of the ICO summit conference in Kuwait and thus far "no Islamic state has apologized for not attending," the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs announced in remarks reported by Riyadh radio 7 January. Speaking at the end of the GCC foreign ministers meeting, he also confirmed that all GCC member-states are committed to the date and venue of the ICO summit.

Israel

IDF in Tabah — A military spokesman cited by AFP disclosed that the IDF will maintain its positions in Tabah after the scheduled deployment of the Multinational Observer Force (MFO) in the area. A Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the Israeli-Egyptian arbitration agreement does not provide for the IDF's withdrawal from Tabah, the agency added. On the other hand, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement carried by MENA asserted that the MFO is responsible for ensuring that there are "no military units or weapons" in Tabah.

Lavi Project — Israel must continue with the Lavi in its present form, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told IDF radio after meeting with U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Dov Zakheim. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir spoke of a "general desire" to continue developing the Lavi, while Jerusalem radio cited the IDF chief of staff's view that the Lavi project is of national significance and should be given the necessary backing.

Egypt

Security forces arrested 10 students involved in a 6 January riot by religious activists at Al-Zaqaziq University, MENA reported.

Kuwait

The state security court found four of five defendants guilty of planting bombs in public cafes in July 1985, KUNA reported, adding that of the two convicts sentenced to death, only one is in custody.

Afghanistan

In remarks cited by TASS, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze praised the DRA cease-fire initiative as "a wise political decision" and urged "all contending forces" to come together and discuss peace. He also called on Afghanistan's neighbors to accept the "hand of reconciliation." In addition to talks with PDPA Secretary General Najibullah, the Soviet minister had separate meetings with Council of Ministers Chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and with his DRA counterpart, Abdel Wakil, Kabul radio reported.

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USSR's Shevardnadze, Dobrynin Continue Visit

Meet Najibullah, Officials

LD061720 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] This morning General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib met with Politburo Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union E. Shevardnadze and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee A. Dobrynin. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere of comradely understanding.

According to another report Politburo Member and Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand met today with Member the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs E. Shevardnadze. Both sides spoke on topics of mutual interest. Soviet Ambassador and Representative Extraordinary Comrade P. Mozhayev was also present.

According to another report Politburo Member of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Comrade Abdol Wakil met today with Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade A. Dobrynin. They exchanged views on topics of mutual interest.

Najibullah Reception Speech Cited

LD070615 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 6, BAKHTAR — Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has said that his party and his country are entering a special period of historic development. They are starting a process of national reconciliation. Najib spoke Monday night at a reception held on the occasion of the working visit to Afghanistan of Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Najib said that it was symbolic that the beginning of the process of national reconciliation had coincided with the beginning of the new year. A new year always means new hopes, plans, and accomplishments.

However, he continued, we realize that good intentions and concrete plans are not enough today, but good, concrete actions are needed. We believe that our hopes will come true, that our plans will be fulfilled, and the new year will become a year of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, Najib said.

Najib made a toast for Afghan-Soviet friendship and pointed out the cordial atmosphere in which the meeting was held. He said that in this atmosphere he would like to mention the feeling of affection of each of the (?Afghans) for Soviet people and for Soviet Communists. The Afghan leader emphasized that his nation had gained life, freedom, and independence thanks to the all-round assistance of the Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze Remarks Viewed

LD070629 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kabul, January 6 BAKHTAR — "The Soviet leadership, including Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, personally, have sent us here to convey to you the Soviet Union's sincere desire to give every kind of assistance to the policy of national reconciliation, Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political (?Bureau) of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, has said here. He was speaking Monday at a reception given by Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

"We hail the principles of national reconciliation as outlined by Comrade Najib in his report to a plenum of the PDPA Central Committee.

"The ceasefire proposal has been a noble and prescient gesture.

"And we hope that it will be supported by all forces opposing each other in Afghanistan.

"A ceasefire is an indispensible prerequisite condition for the rumble of guns to give way to the voice of reason and for the warring sides to get together at a common threshold of accord and be able to discuss a peaceful future of their country without interference," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

"As far as we, your long-standing and loyal friends, are concerned, you may rest assured that there is hardly anybody else in the world having a stronger wish than we do for success with national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

"This is because this success will mean in a country which is our neighbour, and hence peace for us too. [sentence as received] "It will also mean an early return to their homeland by the Soviet troops, by all our lads who are being awaited back home so eagerly, anxiously and hopefully by their mothers, fathers, wives, brides, and workmates.

"National reconciliation and a political settlement meet the interests of not only the Afghan people. They are definitely beneficial for its neighbours.

"We are convinced that the countries neighbouring on Afghanistan are (?interested) in peace and accord arriving on Afghan soil.

"He who really wishes well to Afghanistan should give real help to a political settlement. It is feasible and as close as never before," he added.

"The new year can and should mark the start of new relations between Afghanistan and all its neighbours and of its growing

stronger as a sovereign, independence country pursuing a policy of neutrality and non-alignment," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

TANJUG Reports Return of 3 Politicians

LD061844 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1344 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Islamabad, January 6 (TANJUG) — According to unofficial information, three renown politicians of the former regime, who lived in voluntary exile in Western Europe and the United States for years, arrived in Kabul recently. Dr Mohammad Yusuf, former prime minister in the sixties when King Zahir Shah ruled the country, Dr Abdul Hakim Tabibi, former Afghan representative in the United Nations, and Abdurrahman Pazhwak, former Afghan ambassador to India, have returned to the country. Their arrival is believed to be related to the Kabul government's initiated "national reconciliation" and compromise with "all Afghans living abroad". As part of the initiative, Dr Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has sent invitations to "moderate politicians and monarchists" on several recent occasions.

It is interesting to note that Dr Pazhwak belongs to a family extremely influential among the Pashtuns in eastern Afghanistan, where the Kabul government has faced the strongest resistance. The confirmation two days ago by the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan of the appointment of Abdurrahman's son Nematullah Pazhwak as minister without portfolio in the Council of Ministers, should therefore be viewed in this light.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Actions in Samangan

BK061142 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, several Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured when the mujahidin attacked a security post at (Qollam) in Samangan Province. The security post building was damaged during the operation. In another operation, the mujahidin killed (?several) Soviet-Kabul forces when they attacked the Chashmeh security post recently.

Satellite To Be Launched by USSR in Sept

BK070300 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] An Indian satellite weighing over 900 kilograms is to be launched from the Soviet Union in September this year. It will be put into orbit at an altitude of 900 kilometers. India would bear the cost of the launch for the first time. Earlier, three Indian satellites — Aryabhata and two Bhaskaras — were launched from the Soviet Union free of cost.

Pakistani Envoy, Tiwari Discuss Relations

BK061640 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The Pakistan ambassador to India, Dr Mohammad Humayun Khan, called on the Indian external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in New Delhi yesterday and conveyed to him satisfaction of his government with the recent positive developments in bilateral relations. They briefly reviewed the result of the meeting between the home secretaries and foreign secretaries of the two countries. Dr Mohammad Humayun Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's desire for good neighborly relations and this [was] fully reciprocated by the Indian external affairs minister. They also discussed various steps to be taken in the implementation of the decisions reached at these meetings and agreed on the need for prompt action by both sides.

Buta Singh on Extremism in Northeastern Region

BK070945 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has expressed concern at the spurt in insurgency in some parts of the northeastern states. He has warned if it is not checked in time, it will seriously affect the development efforts of the region. He was addressing the committee of central ministers for economic development of northeastern region, which met in New Delhi today.

Mr Buta Singh said extremist activities in Tripura and Assam are gaining ground. A new extremist group — the United Liberation Front of Assam, ULFA — has come into being, and there is increasing collaboration between different extremist groups. This is particularly evident in the case of ULFA and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

Mr Buta Singh assured the states that the center will give them maximum possible assistance to tackle extremism. He said the prime minister is deeply concerned about speeding up the development of the region. He himself will guide the deliberations of the northeastern council's meeting scheduled for the 19th of next month.

Mr Buta Singh announced that the second Brahmaputra bridge will be ready by March this year, 4 months ahead of schedule. He said a tentative site has been selected for an IIT [Indian Institute of Technology] near Guwahati.

The home minister said that the current meeting of the committee of central ministers will for the 1st time review the working of several central schemes being implemented in the northeast. He said that monitoring is essential for the early completion of the on-going projects. The meeting is being attended by the ministers for human resource development, railways, labor, communications, chemicals, and petrochemicals, and the chief ministers of the concerned states. The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission is also participating.

Some Tripura Areas To Be Declared 'Disturbed'

BK061604 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] Certain border areas in Tripura are to be declared as disturbed areas by the state government. This was decided at a 2-day meeting between the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakroberti, which ended in New Delhi today.

The state government will identify the areas to be declared as disturbed under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. The center has also agreed to deploy forces belonging to the Assam Eifles in Tripura since they are considered suitable for counterinsurgency operations in the area.

The Tripura government will furnish material to the center which will take a suitable decision regarding the TNV [Tripura National Vounteers] under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. These arrangements will be reviewed in the first week of April this year. The 2-day meeting was attended among others by the ministers of state for home, Mr Chidambaram and Mr Chintamani Panigraphi.

3 Killed in Clash With Gurkha Supporters

BK061601 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] In West Bengal, a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] and two GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] men were killed in a clash between security forces and GNLF supporters at (Ranglia) in Darjeeling District today. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police, Mr S.R. Banerjee, told newsmen that a senior superintendent of police and the additional district magistrate were injured in the incident. He said the violence sparked off when the security forces challenged the 5,000 strong mob of GNLF supporters. The police opened fire to control the situation. Some persons were also injured.

6-Member New Sind Cabinet Sworn in 7 Jan

BK070825 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] A 6-member new Sind cabinet with Syed Ghaus Ali Shah as the chief minister was sworn in in Karachi this morning. The Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Wali Mohammad Tabani, administered the oath of office to the ministers at a ceremony at the governor's house. The ministers are: Alhaj Shamimuddin, Pir Sibghatullah Shah Rashedi, Mr Akhtar Aziz Kazi, Dr Shafqat Ali Shah, Mr Abbas Bawazir, and Nawabzada Rashed Ali Khan.

Our Karachi representative says that the oath-taking ceremony was attended by the chief justice, judges of the high court, the speaker and members of the provincial assembly, senior officials, and prominent citizens.

British Parliamentary Group Meets Junejo

BK061642 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The visiting 3-member British parliamentary delegation led by Sir Gerard Vaughan called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Islamabad today. The British parliamentarians conveyed to the prime minister their appreciation of Pakistan's humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees. The members of the delegation discussed with the prime minister matters of mutual interest.

PRC Air Force Delegation Meets Air Force Chief

BK061648 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The 6-member high-powered Chinese Air Force delegation led by the deputy chief of air staff-training, Major General (Zhim Yangeng), called on chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal Jamal Khan, in Rawalpindi today. Matters of common interest to the air forces of the two countries were discussed. Later, the delegation visited PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Base Chaklala.

Steps Being Taken To Prevent Air Violations

BK070844 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reiterated that the country's frontiers would be defended effectively, and the Armed Forces were fully capable of meeting any challenge from any side. He told newsmen in Islamabad today that the defense capability of the forces was such that the security of the country will be fully defended by them. When his attention was drawn to the increasing air violations by the Soviet-Afghan airplanes and the harassing of a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane yesterday, the prime minister said that whenever Geneva talks draw near, the Soviet-Afghan forces mount violations of Pakistan's airspace. He said the government is taking steps to prevent such air violations so that the frontiers of the country are effectively defended.

SRI LANKA

LTTE Opens Secretariat in Jaffna 1 Jan

BK061526 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] have opened a secretariat in Jaffna to run a separate administration on 1 January. We have already reported that the LTTE has plans to set up its own bank, issue licences to vehicles and drivers, issue cinema licences, operate transport system, police, and postal services, and to run video shows.

Government Response Questioned

BK061322 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] It is the government's aim to find a peaceful solution to the problem of terrorism. [Word indistinct] the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, the terrorists are bent on a path of violence. The minister made this observation in a reply to a query raised in Parliament today by the leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike, on the current situation in the north.

Several steps relevant to the situation in the Northern Province are expected to be taken. One such step already taken was the suspension of fuel supplies to Jaffna. And Minister Athulathmudali added that the measures contemplated could not be announced in advance. These measures have to be taken despite the adverse impact for the people. The minister said that they are facing a serious situation of an unprecedented nature and called for unity in the face of this situation.

Mr Anura Bandaranaike cited reports in newspapers that the administration in the north has been taken over by the terrorists from 1 January and that the area is being administered as an independent territory. The leader of the opposition asked what the response of the government was going to be. He called for a special day's session in Parliament to discuss the problem.

LTTE Rule 'Alienated' Jaffna Residents

BK040824 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0758 GMT 4 Jan 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool"]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 04 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have murdered a university student in Sri Lanka, 23 year old Ambalavanar Vijithiran, who opposed the setting up of a LTTE trade union in the Jaffna University, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They said it was now confirmed that the youth who was kidnapped on November 4, 1986, has been shot dead and his body concealed. The sources said that as a result, the LTTE has alienated the population of Jaffna, but, who are ruled at the point of a gun.

Meanwhile, Jaffna residents told LANKA PUWATH that they were praying that the LTTE leadership would be destroyed by a rival group or during a battle with the Security Forces. They said that while the LTTE have forced certain car owners to purchase annual licences, a large number had put in non-user claims. Residents also said that the LTTE has forcibly taken over a Jaffna vernacular newspaper for allegedly taking an anti-LTTE stance.

LANKA PUWATH Reports 4 'Terrorist' Incidents

BK050801 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0715 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Colombo, Jan 05 (LANKA PUWATH) — Four incidents involving separatist terrorists were reported from the north and east of Sri Lanka today.

Acting on information, a security forces patrol at Satturukondan, Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka detained three persons who were suspected to be involved in terrorist activity last Saturday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. Further investigations are proceeding.

At Navatkuli, Jaffna District in northern Sri Lanka, government troops clearing the scrubland on the outside perimeter of their camp were attacked by terrorists yesterday. Troops effectively repulsed the attack causing the terrorists to flee.

In another incident at Vasavilan, Jaffna District, last Saturday, terrorists fled after a brief fire fight with a security forces patrol.

A report from the Trincomalee District in eastern Sri Lanka states that government troops acting on information supplied by residents of the ninth colony at Mollipotana, captured a terrorist who was hiding in the outskirts of the colony.

Further Incidents Reported

BK061135 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1038 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Colombo, Jan 06 (LANKA PUWATH) — A number of incidents involving separatist terrorists were reported from the north and east of Sri Lanka today.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that a security forces foot patrol was attacked by terrorists at Maniyampuram, Eravur in eastern Sri Lanka last Saturday. The patrol fired back killing Navan An Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader of the area. The other terrorists fled.

In a fire fight between a security forces foot patrol and a gang of terrorists at Karadiyanaru in the Batticaloa District last Sunday one terrorist was killed and two other terrorists captured.

On the same day at Navatkudah, Batticaloa District terrorists attacked a security forces patrol with grenades. The patrol returned fire and pursued the fleeing terrorists. Later in a nearby lagoon a canoe (boat) with grenades were found by the patrol.

At Punnai, Batticaloa last Sunday, government troops on patrol captured seven persons who were loitering on the road and who could not answer on the spot questions. The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that after investigations it was found that four of them had connections with the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), two with the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), and the other with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Government troops on foot patrol at Karativu, Batticaloa District last Sunday, detained for questioning two persons suspected of having links with terrorists. Police are conducting investigations.

Meanwhile, yesterday, a report from Valachchenai also in the Batticaloa District states that armed terrorists robbed a Honda motor cycle 81 SRI 6147 belonging to Father Theophillus Rajan of the church complex at Valachchenai. The report further states that the motor cycle was used by the father to visit his parishioners.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that separatist terrorists attacked the security forces quarters at Pannai in northern Sri Lanka yesterday. Troops repulsed the attack seriously wounding S. Jayasekaran alias Carder belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gang of terrorists.

At Kadduwa junction, northern Sri Lanka yesterday, government troops on patrol were attacked by terrorists from a bunker. Troops effectively repulsed the attack destroying the bunker and also recovered land mines from the scene. The terrorist fled carrying their wounded. Krishna Kumar alias Raju of the LTTE was seiously wounded in the fire fight.

Meanwhile, on the same day separatist terrorists fired mortars at the Jaffna Fort security forces camp but fell short of the camp.

A report from Talaimannar in north western Sri Lanka states that a naval patrol spotted a boat carrying terrorists last night on the high seas off Talaimannar and fired at it. Later a search of the area revealed no survivors.

Editorial Urges Building of Identity, Unity

BK050311 Colombo SUN in English 20 Dec 86 p 7

[Editorial: "It's Time To Hold Hands"]

[Text] Politics may have contributed substantially to our present miseries, but all doesn't seem to be lost. It is heartening to observe some of our leading politicians making bold attempts to retrieve some of our shattered inter-communal amity, although the cynics may say that it is rather too late in the day.

However, it is cynicism that we should guard against at present. Cynicism has firmly established itself as one of our principal foes. It is as destructive and lethal as the abominable weapons of the North and East. What is required, right now, is hope and confidence and any moves that are designed to lay the basis for these positive emotions within us, are extremely welcome.

The Prime Minister's plans for tomorrow, which entail the formation of giant human chains in Colombo and other principal urban centres and towns, may not be exactly original, but they are pregnant with some possibilities.

The crucial need of the hour is an overriding Sri Lankan identity. It is this lacunae that has dissolved the bonds of amity among the numerous communities of this country and sowed the seeds of distrust and hatred. We must cease to think of ourselves as belonging primarily to this or that community or religion, but conceive of ourselves as Sri Lankans, who share a common identity and destiny. Politicians, regardless of whether they belonged to the left, right or centre, failed miserably in the crucial enterprise of nation-building.

Having been offered political independence on a platter, our politicians of the past, frittered away all chances of building a united and prosperous nation. This is because most of them were too busy building their own nests or feathering their own caps, to the vast detriment of the country.

As in the case of their White Sahibs before them, the Brown Sahibs too, found it highly opportune to "divide and rule". They secured their positions of power by playing one community of this country against the other. Playing to the gallery was the order of the day. The catastrophic consequences of these depredations are now all too obvious.

It is not surprising therefore, that some minorities don't feel a sense of identity with Mother Lanka. It is a dire consequence of the crudely opportunistic policies that were pursued by our politicians.

However, this is hardly the time to repent. Every opportunity should be seized to build racial and communal amity. The atmosphere of distrust and suspicion that is currently undermining our efforts at nation-building, should be dissolved, once and for all.

The Prime Minister's effort to bring out all the communities of this country tomorrow, in one vast, triumphant gesture of unity, could be an important step in the direction of building inter-communal amity. By joining hands and creating a colourful human mosaic, the people of this country would be testifying to the widespread desire for peace and unity.

PDRY Foreign Minister Continues Tehran Visit

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD061557 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — Visiting Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali met with Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here today. During the meeting, Al-Dali hailed Iran-PDRY friendly relations and expressed hope that the commercial, industrial, and agricultural relations between the two countries would markedly expand.

In response, Ja'fari noted that the Islamic Republic shares a long and friendly politico-cultural relation with the PDRY; he also announced Iran's readiness to promote bilateral economic relations with South Yemen.

The commerce minister expressed regret that the Iraqi-imposed war had served to tie up most of Iran's resources which should have been used for helping and furthering cooperation with such friendly countries as the PDRY. He said that an Iranian victory over Iraqi troops at the war fronts would undoubtedly help remove problems.

Al-Dali and Ja'fari also agreed to pursue and implement an agreement entered into by a visiting Iranian delegation and South Yemenese officials in Aden last year.

In another development, the PDRY foreign minister and his entourage visited different sections of "Saipa" automobile manufacturing company here Tuesday.

Al-Dali is heading a delegation which arrived here on Sunday for an official visit.

Talks With Industries Minister

LD070223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At a meeting with the Iranian minister of industries, the PDRY foreign minister noted the good-neighborly relations and areas of common interest between the two countries. He said his country was interested in providing greater opportunities to benefit from the Islamic Republic of Iran's industrial products. The minister of industries said Iran was ready to cooperate with South Yemen in the cement industry, exporting industrial products, and in setting up industrial enterprises within its ability. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran preferred to have economic ties with neighboring countries instead of imperialist countries and superpowers. In conclusion, it was decided to continue the talks on economic development between the countries.

Conveys Message to Khamene'i

LD070220 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — Visiting Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali submitted President 'Ali Khamene'i a message from his PDRY counterpart Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, here Tuesday. Al-Dali also extended an invitation to President Khamene'i to pay an official visit to Aden on behalf of the PDRY president which was welcomed by Khamene'i. He expressed hope that Tehran-Aden relations would further strengthen.

The PDRY foreign minister said that the Iranian nation and officials' firm confidence in the Islamic Revolution and its sublime ideals would never be shaken. The PDRY believes that the Islamic Revolution of Iran will support the independence struggle of the South Yemenese people in the confrontation with global imperialism and especially the U.S. and Zionism, Al-Dali said.

In response, President Khamene'i welcomed the expansion of Iran-PDRY economic, political, and cultural relations emphasizing the need for the two countries to escalate their efforts to this end.

President Khamene'i also expressed hope that the current talks between Al-Dali and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati would result in enhancing Tehran-Aden politico-economic cooperation.

Talks With Velayati; Ends Visit

NC070947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] The second round of talks between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PDRY took place yesterday afternoon. According to the Central News Unit, the PDRY foreign minister alluded to the Palestinian question during this session. He expressed his concern over the current situation in Lebanon and said: We believe that the conflicting forces should unite against their common foes, that is, imperialism and Zionism. He declared: We are opposed to the Camp David policy and we believe that the progressive countries of the region are working toward the same goal. We appreciate the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its dispatch of a special emissary to bring an end to the clashes in Lebanon. We are glad that these endeavors have yielded valuable results and we support them. He added that the Iranian initiative had not only been received positively by the Lebanese people, but had also proved effective in the Islamic world.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, he said: We had hoped to reap the benefits of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and its potential results, but the war has prevented Iran from giving us multilateral assistance. On the ICO conference to be held in Kuwait, he stated: We should coordinate our views as members of the organization and adopt a joint stance; thus we could present a united front, as was the case at previous sessions. If the Islamic Republic of Iran is not represented at the conference we shall be in the minority and unable to have much influence on the course of the session.

Expressing gratitude for the PDRY's positive stance, Mr Velayati referred to the establishment and expansion of bilateral ties following the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He stated: We have

immense joint potential. There is ample scope for the expansion, deepening, and strengthening of ties between the two countries. Despite the wishes of the dependent regimes, we have expanded mutual ties and will continue to do so, even if they disagree.

On the imposed Iraqi war against Iran, Mr Velayati said: The fundamental battle against the aggressor must continue. We are firmly of the belief that while Saddam remains in power, the region will not see any sembiance of peace and tranquillity.

Regarding the holding of the ICO summit in Kuwait, our foreign minister declared: We announced earlier that if Kuwait had adopted a neutral stance we would have attended the conference. But unfortunately Kuwait continues to follow its former policy. Hence it is not appropriate, from our point of view, for the ICO summit to be held in a place which will provide a forum for the subservient regimes such as Iraq and its cohorts.

During this meeting, the two countries stressed the need for the further expansion of reciprocal ties, and for continued and frequent exchanges of views.

According to the Central News Unit, PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, who was visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation, has departed for home. He was seen off by Mr Velayati, our foreign minister.

Reviews Visit Prior To Departure

LD071407 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, who paid a visit to Iran at the head of a delegation, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Velayati. Before his departure from Tehran the PDRY foreign minister gave an interview to a correspondent of the Central News Unit.

Regarding the outcome of his visit, he welcomed his visit to Iran and his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials on trade, political, and cultural matters. Refe.ring to his meeting with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, he said: During the meeting we handed him a message from Chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium Abu Bakr al-'Attas. The message stressed the need for expanding relations as much as possible and referred to a number of issues of interest to the two countries.

Al-Dali noted that the talks were held in an atmosphere thoroughly imbued with Islamic fraternity and cooperation in raising the level of relations. He referred to the harmony and agreement between the two countries about confronting Islam's enemies, imperialism and Zionism, as well as the plots hatched by the region's reactionaries whose aim is to overthrow progressive regimes and liberation movements. He added: We reached similar views about the struggle against Zionism, which has occupied Arab territories and dear Jerusalem; about confronting the acts of aggression by the occupying regime against neighboring countries; and about the Camp David plot. We agreed on opposition to unilateral, individualistic, and compromising solutions whose sole aim is to destroy the aspirations of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Al-Dali expressed regret over the current clashes in Lebanon and said: We believe that these Lebanese forces should unite for the struggle against the enemy of Islam, namely Zionism. The PDRY expresses gratitude for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop killing and bloodshed in Lebanon.

The PDRY foreign minister referred to the U.S. plots in the region, and said: In meetings with Iranian officials, U.S. aggression against Libya and U.S. imperialist threats against Syria were discussed and condemned. It was also agreed to wage a struggle against and confront the onslaughts of the United States against the nations in the region.

In conclusion, al-Dali said he had reached agreements with Iranian officials on trade and oil matters, as well as on continuing the talks between the two countries. He added: The PDRY commends the Islamic Republi. of Iran's position against imperialism and Zionism, and it believes that the Iranian Islamic Revolution will be a lesson for the nation's struggles.

Pakistani Foreign Minister's Visit Previewed

LD071228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Central News Unit report from Islamabad, presented by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will arrive in Tehran on Friday, 9 January, on an official 3-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a press conference today a spokesman for the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: During this visit the issue of the Islamic summit conference session and bilateral relations will be discussed.

He added: After his official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan's minister of foreign affairs will leave for Riyadh to have discussions with Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-Faysal about the convening of the Islamic summit conference.

Referring to the close relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, this spokesman said: Pakistan wishes to see the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic summit conference. In the course of the meetings between the Iranian and Pakistani ministers of foreign affairs, extensive discussions will be held.

In reply to a question about the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran about changing the venue of the Islamic summit conference from Kuwait to another Islamic country, he said: According to the constitution of the Islamic Conference Organization, the venue of the conference can be changed with the agreement of two-thirds of the member countries.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Next Sunday [11 January] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who will be accompanied by Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar', will stop over in Islamabad en route to Beijing. How-

ever, he said nothing about possible discussions between Khaddam and Pakistani leaders or topics of discussion.

Concerning the convening of the Islamic summit conference, this high-ranking official of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: One of the important issues to be discussed in this session will be the issue of Afghanistan. Concerning the recent remarks and proposals of Najib, head of the regime in Kabul, he implicitly said: These remarks will have no effect upon the ordinary discussions in Geneva about the issue of Afghanistan.

At the end of this press conference, the spokesman of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: In 1986 the fighters of the Armed Forces of Kabul's regime violated Pakistan's airspace 750 times.

Deputy Minister Mansuri Leaves for Asian Tour

LD070053 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA -- Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular and Cultural Affairs Javad Mansuri left here for Dacca Tuesday on the first leg of his visit to Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

During his tour Mansuri and his accompanying delegation are to discuss Iran's relations with these countries. He will also submit messages of ranking Iranian officials to their counterparts in these countries.

Kuwaiti Paper Cited on ICO Venue 'Pressure'

LD061748 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6, IRNA — After initial news blackout the Kuwaiti press have finally admitted that pressure is being exerted to shift the venue of the forthcoming summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) from Kuwait to a neutral country.

The Kuwaiti daily *Al-Watan* in its Tuesday issue quoted informed sources as saying that the scheduled summit of Muslim states has run into pressures aimed at shifting the conference's venue from Kuwait. The daily also misinterpreted President Ziaul Haq's preparedness to attend the ICO meet in Kuwait as Pakistan's refusal to host the summit meet.

It furthermore said that the foreign ministers of six member states of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council would gather in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh Tuesday to discuss the agenda of the upcoming summit meet.

The Kuwaiti daily predicted that all Muslim countries including the Islamic Republic would participate in the summit meet, ignoring Iran's stand on the need to shift the venue of the conference from Kuwait to a neutral Muslim state.

The Islamic Republic has announced the necessity of shifting the ICO confab from Kuwait, due to its alignment with the Iraqi regime. It has been regretted that Kuwait is neither a neutral state in the imposed-war, nor can it guarantee security at the meet, due to the virtual control of its airspace by the Ba'thist regime's Air Force.

DRA National Reconciliation 'Deceptive Mask'

LD061613 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2210 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Islamic movement of Afghanistan is faced today with two (?developments). Although one originates from the enemies of Islam and the other from the Muslims themselves, both demonstrate the strength and power of the people and the destruction of the false glory of the occupying forces.

On the one hand, by launching attacks at the heart of the positions of the occupying forces and their mercenaries, the Afghan Muslim mujahidin have demonstrated their firm resolve in continuing their ceaseless battle until they purge their Islamic land of the filthy existence of the aggressors and their mercenaries. On the other hand, Najib, the Kremlin's agent in Kabul, has extended a begging hand to the Afghan mujahidin and through a deceptive mask of national reconciliation has called for a cease-fire.

Najib is only a pawn in the hands of the Russians, who move him any time they wish in accordance with their interests, as they did with his predecessors, Babrak Karmal, Hafizollah Amin, and Taraki. So no attention should ever be paid to the words of Najib in his position or that of his contemporaries in Kabul. The will, thoughts, tongue, words, and deeds of Najib, his collaborators, and his party fellow members are entirely at the disposal of the occupants of the Kremlin. And it is Moscow's bosses that have told him to talk of national reconciliation at this particular point in time, to ask the Afghan mujahidin to declare a cease-fire on 15 January and to take part in a so-called government of national unity he wishes to set up.

Najib, who recently returned from Moscow and who brought with him the Kremlin's guarantees about the complete expulsion of Babrak Karmal by the Russians from the political scene in Afghanistan, has been given the mission of inviting the Afghan mujahidin to reconciliation and cease-fire as a first step, and of making them the promise of membership in the so-called government of national unity. It is clear that the Russians have made other plans and programs for subsequent stages, some of which even Najib himself is completely ignorant.

In this connection there are certain points that should be carefully considered and studied. The first is that the Russians brought Najib to power to make use of tribal affiliations and to create disunity among various Afghan tribes, thus catching the desired fish from murky waters. Has Najib failed in this mission now that he is proposing a plan of national reconciliation? The answer is that even if his mission has not met with failure, taking refuge in the plan of national reconciliation can be a carefully calculated plot the Russians feel in need of at this point. In order to strengthen the position of Najib as a new pawn, the Russians require time. So before Russia's new pawn can achieve anything for them the Russians should make efforts to strengthen his

position. In these circumstances the policy of procrastination and delaying tactics is very useful. By dictating the plan of national reconciliation to Najib the Russians have come to his assistance.

The second point is that the Russians know full well that the Afghan mujahidin will under no circumstances be prepared to accept the proposed cease-fire. Then why do they order their latest pawn to submit such a proposal? The answer to this question is also very clear. With this tactic the Russians wish to engage thoughts and energies in political discussions for a time and thus provide an opportunity for Najib so that he can pursue Moscow's plans for a longer period.

Of course, it should also not be forgotten that the Russians every so often, by making use of the hardships, pains, and difficulties of homelessness and the difficulties resulting from the war which the Afghan people are facing both inside and outside their country, try to cause dissatisfaction and thus exert pressure on the Afghan mujahidin. Although this trick has not yet produced any benefits for Moscow, nevertheless it is a window of opportunity upon which the Russians have pinned some hope.

The third and the most important point is that in order to promote their evil aims inside Afghanistan the Russians are in need of a policy of procrastination more than anything else. The main aim of the Russians is to change the culture of Afghanistan to such an extent that the future Afghan generation would be devoid of any Islamic feelings, which form the basic motivation for resistance against aggression. It would be under such circumstances that the Russians would not encounter opposition for staying on in Afghanistan. The fact that the Russians take Afghan children to Russia for training, the fact that CPSU cultural organizations are making every effort to spread the culture of atheism in Afghanistan, the fact that the Russian investment in eliminating Islamic culture in Afghanistan exceeds their other expenses for staying in that country, all prove that Moscow is intent on effecting cultural changes in Afghanistan to prepare the ground for its continued domination over the Islamic country.

There is no doubt that in order to achieve that goal the Russians need time, and this time can be gained only through the policy of delaying tactics. Everyone knows that all the claims of the Russian leaders and their servants and pawns in Kabul regarding Afghanistan are mere lies. National reconciliation is a lie. The government of national unity is a lie. The cease-fire is a lie, and finding a solution through talks in Geneva is a lie. In brief, any pretense apart from the continued Russian aggression and domination in Afghanistan is a lie. Such words, even if not lies, will not be acceptable to the Afghan people.

On the other hand, the Afghan Muslim mujahidin know that in order to confront the Russian aggressors and in order to regain Afghanistan's independence they have no solution other than to rely upon the faith and determination of the Muslim people and to respond to the aggressors through the barrel of a gun. The aggressors can be expelled only by delivering blows upon them and only through armed struggle. Apart from that, any other talk in this connection is a lie.

ICO Group Proposes Talks on Afghanistan

LD071109 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] London, Jan, 7, IRNA — The Islamic Council, an affiliate of the Islamic Council Organization, Tuesday proposed talks between the Soviet Union and the Afghan mujahidin at the negotiating table along with neighbouring Iran, Pakistan, and China. The proposal, which will be presented to the upcoming Islamic summit, calls on the five parties to begin peace talks without "any preconditions" aimed at the withdrawal of invading Soviet troops and the establishment of a freely elected government in Kabul. "The time is ripe for a new initiative to break the deadlock in the indirect (UN initiated) talks between Kabul and Islamabad," said Salem Azzam, [name as received] the secretary general of the council, in a press conference here.

The council's initiative calls for the principle parties in the conflict, the Afghan Islamic resistance and the Soviet Union as well as Iran, Pakistan, and China to reach a negotiated settlement of the seven-year-old conflict which has left millions of Afghans killed, homeless, or in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran.

Speaking later to IRNA, Azzam said he believed the Soviet Union now seems to appreciate the heavy cost of the invasion in terms of human and material resources and international prestige. He said the council's proposal appeared similar to one announced by Iran four years ago. Azzam said the proposal had been initially presented to a number of Afghan resistance leaders' Islamic governments and that their reaction was encouraging.

Among the objectives of the proposed five-party talks would be:

— the earliest possible cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan, total and complete withdrawal of Soviet troops, and an end to all outside interference in Afghanistan;

— restoration of Afghanistan's Islamic and non-aligned character, allowing the people to freely and fairly elect their government; and

— securing international, diplomatic, and economic support to the future elected government of Afghanistan to mitigate the human misery caused by the war and to enable the government to make a smooth and speedy return to normality.

Trade Exchanges To Be Discussed With EC

LD070215 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — Experts of the Iranian Embassy in Brussels, Belgium will discuss bilateral trade exchanges with counterparts of European Community commission this week. The decision was made in a meeting between the Iranian ambassador to Brussels, Ali Reza Salari, and President of the EC Jacques Delors in the Belgian capital Monday.

During the meeting Salari, who is also appointed Iranian ambassador to the EC submitted his credentials to the commission's president.

Mr Delors expressed the EC's readiness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Minister on Budget Priorities for 1987-88

LD061409 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Plan and Budget Minister Zanjani in an interview with the Central News Unit this morning described the special characteristics of and priorities given in the country's budget for 1366 [year beginning 21 March 1987], which has been presented to the Majlis for approval.

Stressing the point that the most important special characteristic of the budget is that it is realistic, he said: In 1365 [1986-87], considering the fluctuations in the price of oil, there was some pressure on the country's budget. But, because the necessary allowances had been made in advance, the utmost efforts were made for the pressure not to become intolerable. The various departments were able to adapt themselves in accordance with the contingency plans.

He added: The 1366 budget is also based on true revenues from the sale of oil and taxes. This is a great help to the management of government departments, enabling them to plan from the start with knowledge of the budget allocation for the departments.

In connection with the breakdown of the 1366 budget, he said: The 1366 budget is based on 50 percent tax revenues, 30 percent oil revenues, and 20 percent other revenues. He added: Of the country's total budget, 73 percent has been allocated for current expenditures and 24 percent for development. The current and development expenditures for 1366 show a growth of approximately 5.6 percent compared with those of 1365.

He said: Other special points in the 1366 budget are mechanisms by which certain changes can be made in the country's administrative organizational structure, in terms of administration or personnel, while at the same time the quality of services rendered by the government is not reduced.

Regarding the facilities allocated in the 1366 budget for increasing nonoil exports, he said: To encourage and support the export of industrial and mineral goods, handicrafts and agricultural finishing and processing industries, the sum of $70 million will be placed at the disposal of the supreme council of exports as working capital for exports to be allocated only for importing raw materials, packaging parts and equipment and machinery for the manufacture of goods, packaging and processing agricultural goods and their export, after the necessary undertakings have been received regarding the return of the foreign currency granted.

Regarding the policies in the 1366 budget to curb inflation and prevent pressure on the middle and low-income classes, he said: To attain this goal the necessary allowances have been made in next year's budget; that is, subsidizing goods that comprise a significant portion of family expenses, such as bread, oil, sugar and a number of other basic commodities, and controlling the distribution of basic goods by way of rationing.

Finally, regarding the priorities given by the budget, he said: In the budget top priority is given to the war fronts, for the continuation of the battle of the Islamic combatants against the Ba'thist aggressors; education, training, and universities follow in accordance with their needs to invest in manpower training; and a special allocation has been made in next year's budget to help honorable families of martyrs.

Head of Prison Service Holds News Conference

PM061633 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Dec 86 p 19

[Report by unnamed *Keyhan* social correspondent]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Ansari, head of the country's prison service and security affairs, gave a press conference yesterday morning. He talked about the duties of the prison service and related offices, methods of preparing lists of ordinary prisoners and grouplet [urban guerrilla] inmates, looking into the affairs of low-income families of prisoners, creating employment for prisoners and looking after them once they are released, and the trial of some grouplet leaders.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari discussed the law dealing with the creation of the prison service and related offices and said: The prison service has been set up in all the country's provinces. In most towns the prisons have been taken over from the police and the Islamic Revolution committees and the handing over of prisoners has been completed in other areas of the country as well.

He then talked about ways of reeducating criminals in jail and said: The most important aim of this organization is to correct and reeducate offenders. This is because in Islam the aim is not just to punish the criminal. The Constitution has specified that one of the duties of the judicial branch is to prevent crime. Therefore when criminals are gathered in one place, one cannot hope only to keep them there. They must be corrected and reeducated so that they can return to society as useful human beings.

The head of the prison service added: One of the organization's other aims is to look into the affairs of prisoners' families in order to prevent crime, which is often caused by lack of culture, poverty, unemployment, and so on. In view of this fact, in addition to the offices under its control, the prison service helps needy inmates' families through the prisoners' protection society. This assistance consists of help with their children's education and direct financial aid. In addition to this, the prisoners work in jail workshops and prison cooperatives, which means not only that they learn a useful trade but also that they help their families and save something for their own future.

The head of the prison service then talked about the small number of prisoners and said: Following a series of major actions and the reeducation of grouplet inmates, most of these people have been released during the past 3 or 4 years. During the last 2 years the number of grouplet inmates has been halved, and the number of female grouplet members in prison is very small.

He added: According to the imam's guidance, if the prison officials and the amnesty committee are sure that a prisoner will not harm society after he or she is released, there are no obstacles to their release — even though they may not accept the regime of the Islamic Republic and its officials because of their own personal beliefs. In any case there is no one in the Islamic Republic who has been arrested only because of their political activities, unless their political beliefs are connected with actual crimes.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari then denied the unrealistic figures prepared by the Human Rights Commission and presented to the United Nations with regard to human rights violations in Iran and the increasing numbers of prisoners in this country. He said this had to do with the fact that Iran has refused to permit a delegation from this organization to visit Iran. He added: The stance of this so-called human rights organization is part of the goals and positions of Western and Eastern arrogance. We have witnessed this inhuman organization's reports on our country's prisons before and in the final analysis the Islamic Republic does not trust such organizations.

There have been drastic changes and we can now say that the prisons in the Islamic Republic are unique. These foreign organizations continue to try to belittle our successes with their adverse propaganda. Since we do not trust these people and since their actions have been hostile, we do not consider it proper to cooperate with them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari added: Of course, our prisons are open to all neutral international organizations, and there are no problems concerning this issue.

In another part of his speech he said: The Qezel Hesar prison, which the whole world has made a fuss about, has no grouplet inmates and is only for narcotics offenders.

The head of the prison service then talked about the trials of some grouplet leaders and said: All the grouplet leaders who are in jail have been tried and their crimes have been proven. They will soon be punished. He then commented on the delay in punishing these people and said: For example, the leaders of the Tudeh Party have mostly been tried, but one cannot eliminate or release the leaders of such an established party which has been spying for 40 years. These people have huge files which are very instructive for our country's future. So all their issues and disgusting activities have to be unmasked, and if there are some undiscovered facts, then they have to be dug up.

Therefore, some of the leaders may stay in jail for 5 years without punishment while their cohorts have already been punished. This is not contradictory because of the issues mentioned.

Ansari said that in Tehran only grouplet inmates are housed in the two Evin and Raja'i Shahr prisons, busy being educated and rehabilitated. He commented on conditions for pardoning prisoners and said: There are some general pardons granted by the imam on special occasions but, all in all, this issue does not depend on special days in the year. At any time, in any week or month when the situation of some prisoners is clarified and if it is proven that their release will not harm society, the inmates are freed.

He added: In prisons where we have grouplets undergoing rehabilitation, a list is prepared by a committee which includes the prison manager, the prosecutor's representative, head of the rehabilitation program, and a representative of the Ministry of Intelligence. This list is then handed over to the Supreme Court, and finally the Supreme Court hands the proposed pardon list to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri for a final verdict.

At the conclusion of the press conference Ansari talked about the number of inmates and said: 65 percent of our prisoners are drug smugglers and addicts. We have special programs to uproot narcotics from the society, after which most of these people will be freed. In our country we have laws against alcohol and immoral relations which do not exist in other countries, so many of our prisoners' offenses are in connection with these issues. All in all, the total number of inmates is very small and every effort is made to rehabilitate them. They even work in jail so that we do not have idle hands in the prisons.

Bill Proposes Seizure of Iraq-Bound Cargo

LD061756 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — Cargo of all Iraqi-destined ships will be seized by the Islamic Republic of Iran according to a proposed bill on establishment of a prize-at-sea court, said member and spokesman for the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i here Tuesday. Hoj. Moqtada'i said that the bill was passed by the SJC last week and would shortly be submitted to the Majlis for final approval.

The SJC spokesman listed the cargo to be seized by the Islamic Republic as stipulated by the bill as follows:

1-All sorts of military hardware and equipment, used by the Iraqi air, Navy, and ground forces, ammunition, and other military or civilian goods belonging to a warring government(s);

2-All cargo destined for a warring government or governments directly or through a third country if the cargo should boost the enemy's military power;

3-Goods and equipment known as booty of war by international laws;

4-Goods and cargo forbidden by the Islamic Republic to be delivered to the Iraqi regime.

The official furthermore said that the prize-at-sea court would be established according to international laws. He also reiterated that it is Iran's justified right to impound and confiscate any ship which carries cargo for Iraq. Moqtada'i said that the SJC would give a list of Turkish subjects now serving prison terms in Iran to the Foreign Ministry in order to hand them over to Ankara upon the request of Turkey's embassy in Tehran.

Lebanese Paper Cited on Chemical Weapons for Iraq

LD052028 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 5, IRNA — Lebanon's Ministry of Justice is reportedly in possession of documents proving that the Christian Liberal Party of that country, led by Camille Sham'un, produces chemical weapons for the Baghdad government, disclosed the *Al-Jihad* weekly, here Monday.

The weekly, the organ of Iraqi Muslim opposition in Iran said the documents were found in the ruins of a factory where a horrible explosion in September 1986 occurred in East Beirut which is controlled by the Phalangists. Investigations conducted by the Ministry of Justice corroborate the claim, *Al-Jihad* said.

Commander of the Phalangist forces, Samir Ja'Ja' had endorsed the production of chemical gas in the factory where the explosion occurred. He also admitted that the plant also produced mustard gas. Mustard gas has been widely used by Iraq against Muslim combatants of Iran in the imposed-war inflicting high casualties.

Lebanese press quoted Ja'Ja' as saying that poisonous gases and chemical substances are being produced in Lebanon for a certain Arab country involved in a bitter struggle with its neighbour. Ja'Ja' was also quoted as stating that the factory is owned by Dani Sham'un, son of Camille Sham'un, the president of Christian Liberal Party of Lebanon.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Helicopter Pad Hit Near Al-Bakr

LD061732 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 7, IRNA — Artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) on an Iraqi helicopter pad near Al-Bakr platform destroyed several helicopters and inflicted heavy losses on the pad. Smoke from the burning helicopters could be seen billowing into the sky.

Gach Saran Raid Casualties Up to 8

LD061802 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Yasuj, Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh, Jan 6, IRNA — Three more victims of last Saturday's Iraqi air raid on Gach Saran, expired at hospital, Tuesday raising the martyrdom toll to 8. Two infants aged one and two years respectively and a 13 year old girl succumbed to their injuries, bringing the number of children martyred in the Gach Saran raid to 6.

Intruding Iraqi warplanes had bombed residential areas of Ab Shirin village near Gach Saran, Saturday afternoon, as a result of which several civilians were martyred and wounded. A school was also damaged in the attack. Fourteen Iraqi warplanes bombed Gour-Sefid, Cheshmeh Mournieh and Vijnan Districts in Gilan-e Gharb martyring two innocent villagers and wounding eight others. Five houses were also damaged in the Iraqi air raid.

Iraqi 'Concentration Center' Hit

LD071046 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 7, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers hit Iraqi positions in a southern front Wednesday morning, inflicting heavy casualties and damage on them.

A Joint Staff Command communique said that the Iraqi concentration center was hit at 10:12 a.m. local time (06:42 GMT). All Iranian aircraft returned to base safely, the communique added.

Iraqi Munitions Depot 'Exploded'

LD071058 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 7, IRNA — Hundreds of Iraqi Ba'thist troops were killed or wounded in an explosion at a chemical-munitions depot on western coast of Arvand River Monday. The depot was exploded by Iranian artillery fire in artillery exchanges between the two. It was located between Umm al-Rasas and Minu Island.

According to reports the explosion resulted in escaping of poisonous gas in the region and causing casualties to hundreds of Iraqi military personnel and the evacuation of a three square kilometer area. Minutes after the explosion the enemy artillery fire was ceased, leaving observers to conclude that enemy troops were in the grips of confusion and disorder.

Communique No 2,708

LD061525 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed positions and concentration centers of Iraqi forces in one of the southern operational theaters at 06:54 hours GMT Tuesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops, said a military communique here. Communique Number 2,708 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the fighters after successfully carrying out the mission returned safely to bases. At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements were set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts on Monday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

The Joint Staff communique furthermore said that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued in the western fronts especially in Mehran, Naft Shahr, Qasr-e Shirin operational theaters with the former holding the upper hand. In the southern fronts, the communique said, artillery duels raged in eastern Basra, and convoys of Iranian patrols after successfully reconnoitering enemy positions returned safely to bases. Iranian forces opened artillery and tank fire on Iraqi armoured units in Nahr-e Anbar and Eyn Khvosh, southern fronts, on Monday inflicting heavy damage on emeny armoured units and silencing their fire, it said.

Movements of Iraqi engineering vehicles were halted and some of them were destroyed in the southern operational theater of Yabis by Iranian artillery fire on Monday, the communique said.